

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A floor underlayment comprising:
2 a first layer including cork material;
3 a second layer coupled to the first layer, the second layer
4 having a high degree of resistance to moisture permeability; and
5 a third layer coupled to the first layer opposite the second
6 layer, wherein the third layer is configured and formed from at least one
7 material to enhance dimensional stability of the first layer.
- 1 2. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the third layer has a
2 high degree of resistance to moisture permeability.
- 1 3. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the first layer, the
2 second layer and the third layer are formed as part of a sheet.
- 1 4. The underlayment of Claim 3 wherein the sheet is sufficiently
2 flexible to be rolled.
- 1 5. The underlayment of Claim 3 wherein the sheet has a width
2 of at least about 3 feet.
- 1 6. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the second layer and
2 the third layer each have a thickness of less than about 5 mils.
- 1 7. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the first layer and the
2 third layer are formed from common material.
- 1 8. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first
2 layer and the third layer is adapted to be adhered to flooring material.
- 1 9. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the second layer is
2 bonded to the first layer.

1 10. The underlayment of Claim 9 wherein the bond is permanent
2 and has a peel strength of at least 30 ounces per inch.

1 11. The underlayment of Claim 10 wherein the bond has a peel
2 strength of at least about 50 ounces per inch.

1 12. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein the first layer has a
2 thickness of at least about 2 miles to about 3 miles.

1 13. The underlayment of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the
2 second layer and the third layer have a thickness no greater than about 3
3 mils.

1 14. A flooring system comprising:
2 a concrete subfloor;
3 a floor underlayment above the subfloor, the underlayment
4 including:
5 a first layer including cork material;
6 a second layer attached to the first layer, the second
7 layer being highly resistant to moisture permeability, the second layer
8 located between the first layer and the subfloor; and
9 a flooring above the floor underlayment.

1 15. The flooring system of Claim 14 wherein the flooring is
2 adhered to the underlayment.

1 16. The system of Claim 1 wherein the first layer consists of
2 cork particles within at least one binder.

1 17. The flooring system of Claim 14 wherein the underlayment
2 includes a third layer coupled to the first layer opposite the second layer,

3 wherein the third layer is formed from a material distinct from the first
4 layer.

1 18. The flooring system of Claim 17 wherein the third layer
2 enhances dimensional stability of the first layer.

1 19. The flooring system of Claim 17 wherein the third layer is
2 bonded to the first layer.

1 20. The flooring system of Claim 18 wherein the third layer is
2 highly resistant to moisture permeability.

1 21. The flooring system of Claim 17 wherein the first layer, the
2 second layer and the third layer are formed as part of a sheet.

1 22. The flooring system of Claim 21 wherein the sheet is
2 sufficiently flexible so as to be rolled.

1 23. The flooring system of Claim 21 wherein the sheet has a
2 width of at least about 3 feet.

1 24. The flooring system of Claim 17 wherein the second layer
2 and the third layer each have a thickness of less than about 5 mils.

1 25. The flooring system of Claim 17 wherein the flooring
2 includes wood material.

1 26. The flooring system of Claim 14 wherein the second layer is
2 bonded to the first layer.

1 27. The flooring system of Claim 26 wherein the bond between
2 the second layer and the first layer is permanent and has a peel strength
3 of at least about 30 ounces per inch.

1 28. The flooring system of Claim 27 wherein the bond is
2 destructive and has a peel strength of at least about 50 ounces per inch.

1 29. The flooring system of Claim 14 wherein an adhesive bonds
2 the flooring and the second layer and wherein the adhesive adheres to the
3 second layer with a peel strength of at least about 50 ounces per inch.

1 30. The flooring system of Claim 14 wherein the second layer
2 has a U.S. perm rating of less than 1 perm.

1 31. The flooring system of Claim 30 wherein the second layer
2 has a U.S. permeability rating of approximately 0.40 perm.